

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee; my name is Candi Curriero.

I have been a server for 14 years. I work at the Legal Tender in Clancy. I decided to testify because freezing the wages of tipped employees means that as the cost of living rises every year; we will actually suffer the effect of losing money year after year. Didn't Montanan's vote to increase the minimum wage to help raise us out of poverty? This bill aims to freeze us in poverty and lower us deeper and deeper every year as the cost of living mounts further and further out of our reach.

I like the fast pace and the busy work of being a server. I'm good at it. I take pride in giving customers good service. I like being able to interact with them. You get some really fun people sometimes. You get to know everyone you work with and we become like family working in the restaurant.

In January the minimum wage increase went into affect. But I didn't see it and neither did the servers I work with. At least two times the owner of the Legal Tender was approached by servers about our wages. The response was as though he didn't know the new wage had already taken affect. Two days ago, almost 4 months after the increase took affect, I finally got my first check with the new minimum wage rate. Despite the change my employer made with my wage rate, the other servers are still being paid below the current minimum wage. I want to thank Keith Kelly and his Wage and Hour staff with the Department of Labor for helping us. I know he'll continue until everything is made right.

These types of indiscretions are not uncommon in this type of work. One of our dishwashers had his paycheck reduced to compensate for the cost of a bar glass that broke while loading it into the washing machine.

I am still waiting to receive the tips from a banquet I worked three weeks ago. The restaurants policy is that I won't receive my tips until the invoice is paid by the customer.

On the issue of how well we servers are doing, living off of our tips; you should know I hold two jobs. I don't have cable TV. I live with two other women and one of their kids and we split the rent. I don't have health insurance. I don't have a pension.

I ask you, "How would you feel if your wages were going to be frozen ...forever".

Please vote against this bill. Thank you.

## LEGAL TENDER

## Employee

Candice J Currero, 4 Market Street, Clancy, MT 59634

SSN

\*\*\*-\*\*-6916

Status (Fed/State)

Single/Single

Allowances/Extra

Fed-1/0/MT-1/0

Pay Date: 02/08/2007

Pay Period: 01/22/2007 - 02/04/2007

20215

Earnings and Hours		Qty	Rate	Current	YTD Amount
Hourly Regular Rate		15.50	5.50	87.08	262.80
Tip-Reported				47.86	52.86
				134.94	315.66
Taxes				Current	YTD Amount
Social Security Employee				-8.37	-19.57
Medicare Employee				-1.96	-4.58
MT - Withholding				-1.00	-2.00
				-11.33	-26.15
Adjustments to Net Pay				Current	YTD Amount
Tips-Kept by Employee				-47.86	-52.86
Employees Draws				-47.86	-86.86
Net Pay				75.75	202.65